



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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**Johnson and Giffords re-introduce bipartisan worksite enforcement bill**

Today U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson (3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.-Texas) and U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (8<sup>th</sup> Dist.-Ariz) re-introduced the New Employee Verification Act, H.R. 2028. The bipartisan bill aims to combat illegal immigration by raising our nation's worksite enforcement standards.

The Act will achieve three important objectives: ensure a legal workforce, secure workers' identities, and protect Social Security. Since the Administration and leaders of both the House and Senate have listed immigration reform as a key priority for 2009, Johnson and Giffords want their get-real approach to employee verification to serve as a unifying lynchpin for Congress to act.

“Experts agree that easy access to jobs encourages illegal immigration. America needs stepped up enforcement and a mandatory new hire employment verification system to prevent illegal employment while safeguarding the jobs, identities and privacy of U.S. citizens. Ensuring a legal workforce helps protect jobs for U.S. workers, secure our borders and prevent identity theft,” said Johnson.

“We in Arizona know what it means to be on the front lines of the illegal immigration crisis. That is why I am joining Congressman Johnson in reintroducing the New Employee Verification Act. Businesses must do their part to stop the flow of illegal immigrants crossing our border. To help them, we in Congress need to ensure they are equipped with a fast and reliable way to check the legal status of employees,” said Giffords.

One, the bill requires *all* employers to enroll in one of two user-friendly and reliable electronic verification systems: the mandatory Electronic Employment Verification System (EEVS) that builds upon the lessons learned in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) E-Verify program or the voluntary Secure Electronic Employment Verification System (SEEVs). The legislation also creates stricter employer penalties imposed on those who flaunt the system.

Two, the measure safeguards workers' identities by creating the alternate, voluntary SEEVs for employers which would also authenticate workers' actual identity (not just the documents they present) and “lock” that identity with the workers' biometric identifier. A network of government-certified, private sector experts would be created to authenticate new employees' identities utilizing existing background check and document screening tools.

Three, the bill protects Social Security by preventing wages earned through future unauthorized work from being used to determine benefits and ensuring Social Security has the funding it needs in advance to implement NEVA.

To learn more visit [SamJohnson.house.gov](http://SamJohnson.house.gov) or [www.house.gov/giffords](http://www.house.gov/giffords).

